



Arizona Department of Education  
John Huppenthal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

## **Arizona Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (AZ I-BEST)**

The *Arizona Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training* (AZ I-BEST) model takes the Washington State I-BEST model a step further by integrating One-Stop employment services into the program design. AES has funded AZ I-BEST pilot programs in nine of Arizona's fifteen Counties. Programs in Maricopa, Cochise, Yuma, and Yavapai Counties went beyond the pilot stage and offered multi-year initiatives. All programs provide industry supported integrated and expedited training services to a target population of GED® candidates who seek employment in a high demand industry. Collaborations forged by each program ensure that Adult Education services are part of Arizona's Workforce Development System.

The AZ I-BEST model serves the job seeking target population better and faster than stand-alone sequential Adult Basic Education, post-secondary training, and job skills training programs because:

- Programs take cohorts of public assistance eligible individuals from needing their GED® through post-secondary training and into employment in a High Demand Industry in less than 1 year.
- 100% of AZ I-BEST students identify employment related goals as part of their training.
- AZ I-BEST training Programs have demonstrated the retention and successful completion percentage benefits of a program design that requires future employees to work together in accomplishing objectives.
- 74% of those who begin training have completed AZ I-BEST training. This is compared to an average 2009-2010 overall educational gain success rate of 59% in the state's general Adult Education programs.
- AZ I-BEST agencies have reported on over 15 specific instances where collaborative services have been developed to either expand service to the target population or eliminate the duplication of service on the part of workforce development system partners.
- Industry involvement in AZ I-BEST training programs ensures that program training goals will match industry needs in any expansion of AZ I-BEST training in the consortium's service area.

For more information about this exciting initiative, contact:



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